

# The Daily New Mexican

THE NEW MEXICAN PRINTING CO.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 10.

GOVERNOR BUSHNELL now wishes to had out.

THE demand for copies of Governor Otero's report for 1897 is constantly on the increase. A splendid immigration paper it is, to be sure.

SENATOR FORAKER keeps a very discreet silence on the Ohio senatorial situation. This is a time when it pays to be silent, thinks the senator and he is very wise indeed.

MAYOR VAN WYCK comes of good, old, Dutch stock, but reading over the list of appointments of men to fat offices in Greater New York, one is inclined to believe, that somewhere there must be a strong vein of Irish in the mayor.

NEW MEXICO is the best section in the United States for profitable sugar beet raising and the Santa Fe valley is the best part of New Mexico for that purpose. A beet sugar factory in this city would return enormous dividends and no mistake.

THE territorial board of equalization must bear in mind that property is of much higher value this year than it was a year ago; specially is this true of cattle and sheep and agricultural products. The board's action should be governed a good deal by this fact.

It must have cost the McLean-Bushnell-Kurtz combination in Ohio a right smart amount of hooch to get up the combine in the Ohio legislature against Senator Hanna. But McLean and Bushnell are rich men and can stand it, even if they lose, and the chances are that they will lose.

LOOKING at the bills introduced by Delegate Ferguson for an enabling act for New Mexico, for the permanent location of the capital here and for the construction of a large military post at Albuquerque, it must be admitted, that Delegate Ferguson is a right smart politician and believes in getting votes where he can. Still it must also be admitted, that it looks as if he would have quite a hard time passing some of the measures indicated.

IN some of the counties of the territory, the percentage of taxes levied is ridiculously small. If a collector or two in such counties were removed by Governor Otero for dereliction of duty, holy smoke, how some of the other collectors would crowd things and collect taxes. And what a good thing that would be for the territory and for the railroads, that are paying a very large percentage of the taxes, that support the territory, the counties and the municipalities.

DELEGATE FERGUSON has introduced a bill for the location and construction of a large military post at Albuquerque. The delegate will be satisfied if one house passes the bill this session and the other house passes it during the coming session. While this subject is up, it might just as well be remarked that, as far as strategic importance, healthfulness, best location and military importance are concerned, Santa Fe is the superior for such purpose to any place in this territory. Sorry to have to differ with the delegate and our esteemed friends in Albuquerque, but candor and truth and what is best all around compel the New Mexican to make this statement.

WHILE the public spirited and progressive citizens of the territory are endeavoring to enlist capital for New Mexico enterprises and to bring the right kind of immigration into the territory, a few designing and evil minded men are doing all they can to injure the territory, by making and circulating all sorts of nasty and dirty reports, falsehoods and calumnies concerning men and matters in this territory at Washington, in the east and in newspapers throughout the country, in order to hurt New Mexico, to injure men aspiring to office or to injure the cause of statehood for the territory. This is being done out of spite, envy, malice or for a few paltry dollars. Verily some of New Mexico's worst enemies are right here within its borders.

It is a well known fact, that the stocks of many merchants in the territory are returned for taxation at a low rate. Therefore when a board of county commissioners raises the taxation value of stocks of any merchant in any county, the territorial board of equalization should not interfere, but should wisely and well allow the action of the board of county commissioners in such cases to stand. In the very nature of things, the local county boards know what is best in such cases. The people

expect the board of equalization to stand up for the best interests of the commonwealth and to see to it, that county boards and assessors do their duty in the matter of a just and equitable assessment of all property subject to taxation under the laws of the territory, no more and no less.

It is understood that, as usual, charges have been filed against the confirmation of Messrs. John R. McFie and Frank W. Parker with the senate judiciary committee. This was to be expected, as it is proverbial and always expected, that in territorial appointments such should happen. However, there is no foundation for the charges in fact or in truth. They are gotten up by personal and political enemies and by sham reformers to whom no man, a resident of a territory, is good enough for office. Messrs. McFie and Parker are clean, straight, competent and able men and should be confirmed and will be confirmed and the four by nine statesmen and their hangers on, satellites and strikers, who have been indulging in this low and dirty business of filing secret charges will have their trouble for their pains and the contempt of their fellow citizens, as they deserve to have.

## The Civil Service Debate.

The civil service discussion now on in congress will have a good effect upon the country at large, and will undoubtedly result in a healthy change of public opinion regarding the so-called "merit system." In his speech before the house of representatives on Saturday, Congressman Hepburn, of Iowa, said that the public had been misled regarding the effects of the law by the high-sounding titles that were applied to it, and he spoke the truth. It signifies nothing when an applicant for a position in the government service can answer a lot of impractical questions, translate Latin and read Greek; he may not have the slightest idea of the duties required of him in the position sought. It is a fine thing to have a college education and be able to expound the doctrines of Socrates, quote Caesar's Commentaries by the page, and point out all the constellations of the heavens, but it is no indication of qualifications to fill the position of driving four mules hitched to a government freight wagon. The absurdity of many of the questions asked applicants, under an examination conducted by the civil service examiners, is enough to make any practical man sick and tired of life.

Congressman Hepburn pointed out another danger which will surely confront the country in a few years, should the civil service law be allowed to remain the only channel through which employment can be secured under the government; that is: "If there be no reward for workers, the workers will be more loyal to rich contributors than to party and country." The people at large are loud in their denunciation of the rich men in politics and continually harp upon the danger to free institutions which arises from the use of money in elections, and yet they imagine that the very law which makes this danger possible is the pink of perfection and should be extended to every branch of the public service. A more erroneous impression never prevailed. Once let an office-holding class become a firmly fixed part of the United States government and such a thing as thought of the welfare of the country will disappear. The only motive that will actuate the active politician will be money. It is all very nice to talk about the honesty of the people prevailing, but when it is finally settled that the voters have nothing to look forward to but the exercise of the franchise, the corporations and wealthy classes will run this government as they please. An office may not carry much remuneration, but it does carry position and honor, either implied or actual, and men will make sacrifices for the benefit of the country under the possibility of a reward of that kind for themselves or friends, which they would not consider for one moment if they knew, that all the offices were held for life, by men who cared for nothing outside of the salary connected therewith.

The American people have had many frauds perpetrated upon them in the name of reform, but the so-called "merit system" is the cap sheaf of the whole lot, and the sooner it is relegated to the dead past the better for the country.

## The War About an End.

Nearly three years ago, when the insurrection broke out in Cuba, the Spanish government announced that this island would be subjugated within six months' time; but the months passed and the inhuman conflict was prosecuted to the bitter end without any apparent hope of an ending; all offers of the United States to bring about an understanding between the contending forces were rejected by the Spaniards with scorn; the proud spirit of the dons would brook no interference from any outside power, and a condition of affairs now exists on the island which is simply appalling. According to the reports sent out by the authorities at Havana hundreds of thousands of Cubans are dying of starvation, while the Spanish troops are suffering from the want of sufficient food.

But the end seems to be in sight. All plans proposed for the subjugation of the insurgents have failed; peace on the basis of autonomy is impossible, and the Spanish friends of the Madrid government in Cuba are deserting the cause of the mother country at a rapid rate. Spain is now ready to accept of the good offices of this government to bring about a settlement of the troubles that have for many years caused dissatisfaction among the native Cubans. The fact, that the Spanish ministry acknowledges the hopelessness of the war ending in a victory for Spain is also an acknowledgment that the Cubans have gained a right to their liberty and to self-government.

Knowing these things the insurgents will now be the ones to refuse to accept the interference of this country. There was a time when any action on the part of the United States favorable to a just adjustment of affairs on the island would have been hailed with joy by the struggling people, but they have now reached a position where they are independent of any help from this country. There can be but one way to end the war, and that is to grant absolute independence to the island.

Spain has carried on the fight as far as she can and the leaders of the revolt will not hesitate to stand by their former pledge that nothing short of freedom will induce them to abandon the struggle.

The United States may as well save all trouble. Offers of friendly offices will be refused by the insurgents and Spain will lose all claims upon her fairest possession. Had the Madrid government consented to such an arrangement months ago, humiliation and bankruptcy would have been avoided, and possibly the island of Cuba saved to the crown.

## New Mexico Dam Case.

The decision of the Supreme court of New Mexico in the Elephant Butte dam case is so clearly correct that the Supreme court of the United States should have no difficulty in reaching the same conclusion.

It was contended by those who sought to restrain the construction of a reservoir at Elephant Butte that a dam at that point would interfere with the navigability of the Rio Grande and that thus it would violate a treaty with Mexico. But it has been abundantly shown that the river within the limits of New Mexico is not navigable. This view has been sustained by both the District court, before which the case was first tried and by the Supreme court of the territory.

The control which congress exercises over navigable streams grows out of its right to regulate commerce between the states. It has no such control over a river lying wholly within the limits of a single state. Of course in the case of a territory it is different, for there the authority of congress attaches directly. But it cannot be shown that impounding water at Elephant Butte would so reduce the value of the Rio Grande in the lower courses of that stream that its navigability would be interfered with. It should further be borne in mind that that part of the river which is navigable lies wholly within the state of Texas, as far as it is within the United States at all.

If congress has a right to interfere with irrigation enterprises because many miles farther down a river is navigable, then there is hardly any limit to its authority over irrigation. In that case it could put a stop to irrigation in Colorado because certain streams which cross the state boundary are navigable farther down. It could prohibit the withdrawal of water from the smallest tributary of such a river. In short it could put a stop entirely to irrigation. This consideration of itself should suffice to make the Supreme court of the United States question the existence of such authority. But apart from this, it seems to be clear that congress has no right to say anything at all about what shall or shall not be done in regard to a stream above the point where navigation ceases.

It should be observed that a considerable part of the water impounded in the proposed reservoir would immediately find its way down the channel of the river. All the water which did this would contribute to the navigability of streams just as it would if there were no dam to intercept its course. Furthermore, the proposed dam at Elephant Butte would not interfere any more with the navigability of the Rio Grande than the one which the opponents of the Elephant Butte enterprise wish to build at El Paso. Attention is called to this by Justice Smith, of the New Mexico Supreme court, and he correctly says, that the object of the injunction, proceeding is to remove an obstacle to the construction of a dam at El Paso. The talk about interference with the navigability of the river is a mere stalking horse for the El Paso scheme.—Denver Republican.

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## THE BUSINESS WAY.

Jack wanted to, but Lady Mary didn't, and that's the way it all came about. Jack swore she was the very daintiest, sweetest, loveliest girl on earth, added a great deal more of love's hyperbole, and—entre nous—even soared into poetry occasionally, which he read to Christopher Columbus, her pet bull terrier.

But as Christopher wrinkled his nose decidedly and as his tail did not show the least intimation of a wag, Jack tore it up—the poetry, I mean, of course.

The trouble was Jack wanted to propose and couldn't. For never did he bring up the eventual subject but Lady Mary would go off at a tangent, possibly because Jack was using roundabout ways.

As Jack confided to his chum (who shall be nameless for various reasons), "Do you know, H. I. I speak of sunsets, she will immediately have a wild desire to discuss ethnology or irregular Greek verbs, and if I should ever mention love—not that I ever have, you know—but if I ever should, hang me if I don't believe she'd ask me how my liver was."

By which it can readily be seen that Lady Mary and Jack were on the best of terms, and the very intimacy seemed to preclude the possibility of anything more. One afternoon I was lying on the river bank industriously fishing, while Jack sprawled upon the grass alternately reading and scribbling. Then he looked up and observed complacently: "Now, I flatter myself that's rather good. Listen, H. I."

"The weary sun has sunk to rest, And with him fades the dying day. Come night, come night, I love the best, Fit time love's winning words to say."

"Pretty good, eh?"

"Good? O Lord! You want to change those last two lines. You should say: 'Alas! still lives a love struck crank Who can't say what he wants to say.'"

"Besides, 'best' isn't good grammar, if you're comparing day with night."

"Hang it all, H. I. Tennyson himself could not please you." Then a long silence which he at last broke with, "Say, do you think she would have me?"

"Oh, take a run around the block! How do I know? There she comes now, and I give you fair warning that if you two stay here and scare all my fish away I'll tell about the poetry."

Divinely tall and most divinely fair was Lady Mary. She came tripping sedately over the tony grass, the mountain winds kissing a delicate peach blossom into her cheeks. Jack, with his customary facility, rose to his feet and the occasion to play the gallant. Neither of 'em paid the slightest attention to me. I was supposed to be dead.

"Jack," she said sweetly, "I want you to row me up to the store. Will you?"

Of course Jack acquiesced, and the two of them got into the boat and started.

Jack is a finished oarsman, at least he generally finishes in about ten minutes. I knew it was to be interesting, so I gave up the fishing and watched them. (Mem. later: They have drifted down the river, both behind Lady Mary's parasol.)

Now, Jack being one of these fellows who believe in never losing an opportunity, calmly rowed the boat out in the middle of the river, and then, as I predicted, shipped the oars and opened the conversation.

"How well we get along together in a boat," he remarked, gazing sentimentally at the cliffs.

"Yes," abstractedly, "but I wish you'd row up to the store. I don't see to waste the whole afternoon drifting like this."

"No, of course not," waking up suddenly. Two strokes. Then, "I wish we could always"—

"There are a lot of new people coming tonight," she broke in. "Mr. Eggleston told me so."

"Did he? H'm!" Then with a brilliant idea, "Are you ever interested in other people?" he asked in his most beguiling tone.

"Oh, yes—now there's Christopher Columbus. I'm interested in him. I wish I had him here this very minute. I'd kiss his dear little nose."

"If I were only Christopher Columbus," instructed Jack.

"I wish you were sometimes," she cried wickedly. "Then I could shut you up occasionally, couldn't I?"

Now what could anybody do with a girl like this? The end of it was that Lady Mary took the oars and rowed to the store herself.

Jack came to me disconsolately. "I wish I was dead," he said. I told him how annoying it would be to me to have him lying around dead. He said I talked like a fool.

"Jack, my dear boy," I said patronizingly (I am two months older than he), "the next time you try to pop the question be like a bottle of ginger ale. Go off with a bang and let all the fizzle come afterward."

"I never thought of that," he answered thoughtfully. "I wonder how it would work? By George, H. I., you're a trump. I'll try it."

That evening they were both down by the spring and I hid behind a tree. I saw the first part of it, but I got there just in time to hear Jack say: "Lady Mary, I love you. Will you be my wife?"

"With pleasure," she answered gayly. "You silly boy, why didn't you say so before?"

"Just what I told him," said I, coming from behind the tree.

"Did you? Dear boy, you may kiss me for that. Keep still, Jack."

And I did—Alkanhest.

## SOCIETIES.

Montezuma Lodge No. 1, A. F. & M. Regular communication first Monday in each month at Masonic Hall at 7:30 p. m. F. S. DAVIS, W. M. J. N. BRADY, Secretary.

Santa Fe Chapter No. 1, R. A. M. Regular convocation second Monday in each month at Masonic Hall at 7:30 p. m. JAMES B. BRADY, H. P. T. J. CURRAN, Secretary.

Santa Fe Commandery No. 1, K. T. Regular convocation fourth Monday in each month at Masonic Hall at 7:30 p. m. MAX. FROST, E. C. ADDISON WALKER, Recorder.

I. O. O. F. PARADISE LODGE No. 2, I. O. O. F. meets every Thursday evening at Odd Fellows' Hall at 7:30 p. m. S. L. LARSON, N. G. H. W. STEVENS, Recording Secretary.

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